

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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O R 301531Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 659

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 4206

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COSTA GOMES TO ADDRESS NATION

REF: LISBON 4201

SITREP 6 AS OF 1600 LOCAL SEP 30

1. GENERAL COSTA GOMES, CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL BY THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, WILL ADDRESS THE NATION AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME LATER TODAY ACCORDING TO NEWS BROADCASTS.

2. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER OR NOT FORMER PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAS CHOSEN OR WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE JUNTA,
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WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL WORD CONFIRMING PRESS REPORTS THAT

GENERALS GALVAO DE MELO, SILVERIO MARQUES, AND DIOGO NETO HAVE CEASED TO BE JUNTA MEMBERS. THE COMPOSITION OF THE JUNTA WHICH SELECTED COSTA GOMES TO REPLACE SPINOLA IS THUS IN DOUBT. IF NEITHER SPINOLA, GALVAO DE MELO, MARQUES, NETO NOR ROSA COUTINHO (ABSENT IN LUANDA) PARTICIPATED IN THE DECISION, THAT WOULD LEAVE ONLY COSTA GOMES AND PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT SPINOLA TOOK THE DECISION TO LEAVE AND TRANSFER THE PRESIDENCY TO COSTA GOMES, THROWING HIS VOTE AND THOSE OF HIS SUPPORTERS IN THAT DIRECTION, AND THAT THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS RUMORED TO BE OUT WERE KEPT IN AT LEAST UNTIL THAT VOTE TAKEN.

3. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT DEFENSE MINISTER FIRMINO MIGUEL AND MINISTER OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS SANCHES OSORIO WILL LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IN THE FUTURE THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY WILL BE REPLACED BY A SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER. O SECULO SPECULATES THAT IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES ARE IN THE WORKS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A MASS RALLY IN FAVOR OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS EVENING AT 1930 LOCAL IN FRONT OF BELEM PALACE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES CALLED THE EMBASSY AT 1530 LOCAL ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO INFORM THE USG THAT PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY WOULD REMAIN AS BEFORE AND HER TREATY OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING HER COMMITMENT TO NATO, WOULD BE RESPECTED. SOARES ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO REMAIN ON AS FOREIGN MINISTER ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED BY PRESIDENT. SOARES ALSO REMARKED THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS PRESIDENT, COSTA GOMES RETAINS HIS JOB AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES.

6. WE HAVE NO WORD ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF GENERAL SPINOLA AND HE HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING HIS FUTURE PLANS. SCOTT

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